

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Wanda Grinde, on February 20, 2009 at  
3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Wanda Grinde, Chairman (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Russell Bean (R)  
Rep. Paul Beck (D)  
Rep. Joel Boniek (R)  
Rep. Frosty Boss Ribs (D)  
Rep. Dee Brown (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Bob Lake (R)  
Rep. Sue Malek (D)  
Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Rep. Bob Wagner (R)  
Rep. Ted Washburn (R)  
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Debbie Carlson, Committee Secretary  
Jeremy Gersovitz, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 433, 2/16/2009; HB 488,  
2/16/2009; HB 611, 2/16/2009  
Executive Action: HB 474, HB 15, HB 555

00:00:01 Chairman Grinde

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 474**

00:03:42 **Motion:** Rep. Boss Ribs moved that **HB 474 DO PASS.**

00:03:57 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Blasdel moved **TO TABLE HB 474.** Motion carried 15-1 by voice vote with Rep. Fleming voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 15**

00:04:19 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved that **HB 15 DO PASS.**

00:04:37 **Motion:** Rep. Blasdel moved **TO AMEND HB 15.**

00:05:20 Rep. Bean

00:07:37 Rep. Butcher

00:08:33 Rep. Malek

00:09:50 **Vote:** Motion on amendment failed 8-8 by roll call vote with Reps. Hamilton, Wilmer, Fleming, Malek, McClafferty, Beck, Boss Ribs and Grinde voting no.

00:12:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-5 by roll call vote with Reps. Blasdel, Boniek, Brown, Wagner and Washburn voting no.

00:12:41 Rep. Brown

00:12:52 Chairman Grinde

**HEARING ON HB 433**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:13:22 Rep. Sue Malek (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB 433, Revise ages for compulsory school enrollment.

**EXHIBIT** (edh40a01)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:21:14 Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**EXHIBIT** (edh40a02)

00:27:47 Dennis Parman, District Superintendent of Schools,  
Havre

**EXHIBIT** (edh40a03)

00:35:08 Mary S. Moe, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education

00:38:33 Marco Ferro, Montana Education Association/Montana  
Federation of Teachers

00:39:27 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:40:00 Steve White, Legislative Liaison, Montana Coalition of  
Home Educators

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh40a04)

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh40a05)

00:50:50 Scott Wagner, Flathead County Christian Home Education  
Association

01:00:00 Andrea Walker, Mother of Home Educated children

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh40a06)

01:00:19 Ron Trippet, Business Owner

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:01:30 Rep. Wagner  
01:02:02 Ms. Juneau  
01:02:12 Rep. Butcher  
01:03:39 Rep. Malek  
01:05:42 Rep. Butcher  
01:06:36 Rep. Malek  
01:06:59 Rep. Boniek  
01:07:17 Rep. Malek  
01:07:53 Rep. Boniek  
01:08:16 Ms. Juneau  
01:09:00 Rep. Brown  
01:09:46 Ms. Juneau  
01:10:25 Rep. Brown  
01:11:08 Rep. Malek  
01:11:34 Rep. Lake  
01:12:11 Ms. Juneau  
01:12:19 Rep. Beck  
01:12:49 Mr. Parman  
01:14:40 Rep. Butcher  
01:15:07 Ms. Moe  
01:15:20 Rep. Butcher  
01:16:11 Ms. Moe  
01:17:17 Rep. Wilmer  
01:18:42 Ms. Juneau  
01:20:30 Rep. Wilmer  
01:21:19 Ms. Juneau

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:21:39 Rep. Malek

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 555**

01:25:06 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved that **HB 555 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:25:22 Rep. Brown

01:25:43 Chairman Grinde

01:26:02 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved **TO AMEND HB 555.**

**EXHIBIT**(edh40a07)

01:26:23 Mr. Gersovitz

01:26:59 Rep. Hamilton withdrew his motion to amend.

01:27:11 Rep. Beck

01:27:29 Chairman Grinde

01:27:48 Rep. Bean

01:28:10 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Lake moved **TO TABLE HB 555.**

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON HB 488**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:29:23 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on  
HB 488, Revise territory transfer laws relating to K-12  
school districts.

**EXHIBIT**(edh40a08)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:38:52 Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County Commissioner

**EXHIBIT**(edh40a09)

**EXHIBIT**(edh40a10)

01:43:34 Curt Dyer, State School Board Association and Member of  
the School Board of Dutton/Brady

01:48:03 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards' Association

01:49:35 Janice Farkell, Montana Resident

01:54:39 Bill Stone, Conrad

01:57:51 Karl Bjelland, Student

01:59:38 Lynn Udderback, Superintendent of Conrad Schools

02:00:25 Jim Bjelland, Conrad

02:01:12 Doug Walsh, Superintendent of Schools, Ennis

02:02:56 Earl Cunningham, Member of Dutton/Brady School Board

02:03:35 Howard Bergstrom, Brady

02:03:46 John Bergstrom, Brady

**EXHIBIT (edh40a11)**

02:04:00 Jill Stone, Pondera County Superintendent of Schools

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:04:33 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association

02:10:59 Rep. Bean, HD 17, Augusta

02:12:32 Rep. Wagner, HD 71, Harrison

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:14:38 Rep. Lake

02:14:53 Mr. Puyear

02:15:26 Rep. Lake

02:15:47 Mr. Puyear

02:16:10 Rep. Lake

02:16:46 Mr. Melton

02:18:17 Rep. Lake

02:19:18 Rep. Butcher

02:19:48 Ms. Johnson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:20:18 Rep. Jones

**HEARING ON HB 611**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:25:23 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 611, Revise deposit of school interest and income money.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:29:24 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards' Association

02:31:31 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association

02:32:34 Marco Ferro, MEA/MFT

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

02:33:03 Tom Schultz, Administrator, DNRC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:33:59 Rep. Wilmer  
02:34:22 Rep. Jones  
02:34:47 Rep. Wilmer  
02:34:55 Rep. Jones  
02:35:42 Rep. Wilmer  
02:36:05 Rep. Jones  
02:37:12 Rep. Malek  
02:37:33 Mr. Schultz  
02:38:56 Rep. Malek  
02:39:05 Mr. Schultz  
02:39:41 Rep. Lake  
02:39:49 Mr. Schultz

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:40:10 Rep. Jones  
02:46:49 Chairman Grinde

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6:00 P.M.

---

Debbie Carlson, Secretary

dc

Additional Document:

Letter from John Bergstrom, Brady, Montana

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([edh40aad.pdf](#))**